WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

i		1.	A method for processing queries, the method comprising:		
2		receivi	ng a set of previous queries, wherein each of the previous queries		
3	includes one o	udes one or more units;			
1		sorting	the queries into subsets along a dimension;		
5		genera	ting one or more subset-specific concept networks for each subset of the		
5	queries; and				
7		compa	ring corresponding subset-specific concept networks from at least two		
3	of the subsets,	, thereb	y generating trend information for a unit.		
l		2.	The method of claim 1, wherein the dimension is a time dimension.		
1		3.	The method of claim 1, wherein the dimension is defined by reference		
)	to one or more		graphic characteristics of users.		
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l		4.	The method of claim 1, wherein the dimension is a geographic		
2	dimension.				
		_	The mosths dief claim 1 whomin the dimension is a ventical dimension		
l •		5.	The method of claim 1, wherein the dimension is a vertical dimension		
2	representing a	user co	entext of the query.		
l		6.	The method of claim 1, further comprising:		
2		receiving a subsequent query;			
3		parsing the subsequent query into one or more constituent units; and			
1		using the trend information in formulating a response to the subsequent query.			
l		7.	The method of claim 6, wherein the trend information is used to		
2	resolve an ambiguous term of the query.				
l		8.	The method of claim 6, wherein the trend information is used to		
)	suggest a relat				
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l		9.	The method of claim 6, wherein the trend information is used to group		
2	response data.	,			
1		10	The method of claim 6, wherein the trand information is used to select		
l 5	an adventice	10.	The method of claim 6, wherein the trend information is used to select		
۷	an advertisement for display.				

1	11. A system for processing queries, comprising:			
2	a trend analysis module configured to sort a set of queries into a plurality of			
3	subsets along a dimension; and			
4	a clustering module configured to generate respective concept networks for			
5	each of the plurality of subsets,			
6	wherein the trend analysis module is further configured to compare the			
7	respective concept networks for at least two of the subsets, thereby generating trend			
8	information.			
1	12. The system of claim 11, wherein the dimension is a time dimension.			
1	13. The system of claim 11, wherein the dimension is defined by reference			
2	to one or more demographic characteristics of users.			
1	14. The system of claim 11, wherein the dimension is a geographic			
2	dimension.			
1	15. The system of claim 11, wherein the dimension is a vertical dimension			
2	representing a user context of the query.			
1	16. The system of claim 11, further comprising a response module			
2	configured to receive a subsequent query, to parse the subsequent query into one or more			
3	constituent units, and to formulate a response to the query based at least in part on the trend			
4	information.			
1	17. The system of claim 16, wherein the response module is further			
2	configured to use the trend information to resolve an ambiguous term of the query.			
1	18. The system of claim 16, wherein the response module is further			
2	configured to use the trend information to suggest a related search.			
1	19. The system of claim 16, wherein the response module is further			
2	configured to use the trend information to group response data.			
1	20. The method of claim 16, wherein the response module is further			
2	configured to use the trend information to select an advertisement for display.			